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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, deplores recent violence in Haiti and warns that it will reinstate sanctions if authorities do not comply with Governors Island Agreement; says security forces must make clear and immediate effort to end violence and intimidation.

+ Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal meet at Headquarters to discuss East Timor; agree on importance of promoting respect for human rights and creating non-confrontational atmosphere; agree to meet again with Secretary-General next May.

+ Working Group on 1994-1996 rehabilitation programme for Somalia completes first week of work in Washington, D.C.; Special Representative Jonathan Howe to meet with World Bank officials on Monday.

+ Secretary-General expresses condolences after sudden death in Geneva yesterday of Professor Torkel Opsahl of Norway, Acting Chairman of Commission of Experts investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

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The Security Council today deplored the recent upsurge in violence in Haiti, particularly the events of 11 and 12 September, when at least 12 people were assassinated, including a prominent supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, during a church service. In a statement read out by its President, Adolfo Raul Taylhardat (Venezuela), the Council expressed deep concern over the existence of organized armed civilian groups in Port-au-Prince who were attempting to interfere with the new Constitutional Government's assumption of its functions.

The Council said that the Constitutional Government must assume control over Haiti's security forces, and that those responsible for the activities of the civilian groups would be held accountable for them and removed from their functions. The Council urged the Haitian authorities to disarm the groups immediately.

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The Council called on the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, also in his capacity as a signatory of the Governors Island Agreement, to ensure immediate compliance with the letter and spirit of the Agreement. The Council said it would consider that the authorities were not complying with the Agreement if the security forces did not make a clear and immediate effort to end the violence and intimidation and to meet their responsibilities.

The Council warned that it would reinstate sanctions against Haiti if the Secretary-General informed it of serious and consistent non-compliance with the Governors Island Agreement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today held meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, as had been agreed at the last round of talks on the question of East Timor in Rome in April. The Secretary-General met separately with the Ministers and then chaired a joint meeting.

The Ministers concurred on the importance of promoting respect for all aspects of human rights -- civil, political, economic, social and cultural -- and for fundamental freedoms in East Timor, according to a United Nations spokesman. They also agreed on the need to create a favourable and non-confrontational atmosphere in order to allow effective progress towards a comprehensive settlement of the question.

Both Ministers reaffirmed the need for further "facilitating" access to East Timor by the United Nations and humanitarian and human rights organizations, the spokesman said. Following the discussions, they agreed to meet again with the Secretary-General in Geneva next May, following discussions between representatives of their two Governments in New York.

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The Working Group established by the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and the World Bank to build a framework for the 1994-1996 rehabilitation programme for Somalia has completed its first week of work in Washington, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Group consists of representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United States Agency for International Development, Italy, the European Community, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Working Group will complete a programme of work for the lead agencies that will be responsible for sectoral planning and reconstruction priorities in Somalia, including public administration, the civil service and physical infrastructure, the spokesman said. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, will meet with World Bank officials in Washington on Monday.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed great sadness at the sudden death in Geneva yesterday of Professor Torkel Opsahl of Norway, Acting Chairman of the Commission of Experts investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General, in a message of condolence to Professor Opsahl's widow, described his death as a great loss to the United Nations, the Commission of Experts and the international legal community.

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